

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 SSM-03 OMB-01 DHA-02 CU-02 MCT-01
COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /097 W
----- 071880

R 091448Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8534

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1706

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, ECON, IS, JO

SUBJ: SITUATION IN NABLUS

REF: JERUSALEM 1698

1. DURING COURTESY CALLS BY DPO DEC. 9 ON NABLUS MAYOR SHAKA' AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HEAD ZAFER AL MASRI, FOLLOWING MATTERS WERE DISCUSSED.

2. VAT COLLECTION - SHAKA' SAID THAT MILGOV AUTHORITIES WERE PRESSING AHEAD WITH VAT COLLECTION EFFORTS AND WERE THREATENING BUSINESSMEN WITH STIFF PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE. HE EXPECTED FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS BEYOND THOSE WHICH TOOK PLACE ON DEC. 7 AND 8. AL MASRI, HOWEVER, NOTED THAT DESPITE CONTINUING MILGOV INTENTIONS TO COLLECT VAT THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT MILGOV WILL PROCEED AGAINST BIGGER ESTABLISHMENTS FIRST AND MIGHT GO EASY ON ALL COLLECTIONS UNTIL NEXT FISCAL YEAR STARTING APRIL 1. AL MASRI SAID THAT WEST BANKERS HAVE DEFINITELY DECIDED TO CONTEST LEGALITY OF VAT IN RAMALLAH HIGH COURT.

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3. LAND SEIZURE - CONFIRMING INFORMATION CONTAINED

JERUSALEM 1687, SHAKA' SAID THAT MILGOV HAS RECENTLY TAKEN OVER ABOUT 200 DUNAMS OF FARMING LAND PRESENTLY OWNED AND FARMED BY LOCAL ARABS AND PLANNED TO USE IT FOR MILITARY WAREHOUSE AND STORAGE AREA.

4. OTHER RECENT INCIDENTS - SHAKA' TOLD US THAT ISRAELI FORCES HAD ENTERED LOCAL SCHOOL YESTERDAY DURING STUDENT DEMONSTRATION AND HAD DAMAGED SCHOOL PROPERTY AND HUMILIATED TEACHERS IN FRONT OF STUDENTS USING OBSCENE VERBAL ABUSE. ALSO HE NOTED THAT LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS, SOME AS YOUNG AS 11-12 YEARS OLD, WERE BEING DETAINED AND THAT LARGE FINES WERE BEING ASSESSED AGAINST STUDENTS FOR RECENT DISTURBANCES.

5. ATTITUDE TOWARDS PLO - ACCORDING TO SHAKA' PLO CONTINUES TO REPRESENT BEST THE ASPIRATIONS OF ALL PALESTINIANS INCLUDING WEST BANKERS. HE THOUGH THAT KADDOUMI'S SPEECH IN THE UN AND ARAFAT'S RECENT COMMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE WERE SIGNIFICANT IN DEMONSTRATING PLO WILLINGNESS TO SETTLE FOR WEST BANK AND GAZA STATE.

6. SHAKA' TOLD US THAT BECAUSE OF CURRENT PROBLEMS, NABLUS HAS PREPARED STATEMENT OF GRIEVANCES TO SEND TO MILGOV AUTHORITIES ASKING FOR CANCELLATION OF VAT, RETURN OS SEIZED LANDS, IMPROVEMENT IN PRISON CONDITIONS, WITHDRAWAL OF ARMY FROM NABLUS, AND CANCELLATION OF FINES. IN SUMMARIZING SITUATION FOR CONGEN OFFICERS, SHAKA' DECLARED THAT "RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAVE NEVER BEEN SO BAD."

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE NOTED NO SIGNS OF DEMONSTRATIONS WHILE IN NABLUS, ISRAELI APC'S AND JEEPS WERE VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE THROUGHOUT CITY. WE ALSO NOTED SEVERAL TELEVISION TEAMS ON MAIN STREET APPARENTLY WAITING FOR FURTHER ACTIONS TO OCCUR. ON RELATED POINT, ANTI-VAT STRIKE IN HEBRON HAS ENDED AS OF DEC. 9.
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Message Attributes

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